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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE FOR THE ACHAEMENID PERIOD IN EASTERN TURKEY

By G. D. SUMMERS

The aim of this paper is to highlight the evidence for Achaemenid settlement in eastern Turkey and to publish the sherds from two sites, Altıntepe (Cimin Tepe I, CAB Site 112) and Cimin Tepe II (CAB Site 113) collected by C. A. Burney during his survey in 1955 and now housed in the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara. An Achaemenid date for Altıntepe level II has often been proposed (e.g. Burney and Lang 1971, 158–9; Forbes 1983, 59) and the site is often now included in studies of the Achaemenid Empire without comment (e.g. Tuplin 1987, 201 n. 118 and map I p. 241; Cook 1983, 198), but the large amount of evidence for extensive and wealthy Achaemenid settlement at the closely related sites of Altıntepe and Cimin Tepe II has not been considered in detail.

Three recent papers concerned with the administration of the Achaemenid Empire in general (Tuplin 1987) and Achaemenid garrisons (Tuplin 1987 B and 1988) have highlighted the sparsity of sites in eastern Anatolia which are known to have been occupied in the Persian period. For the preceding era of the Median Empire, which stretched as far westwards as the Halys river (the modern Kızılırmak), archaeological evidence has been so thin that the very existence of a Median Empire has been seriously, if not convincingly, questioned (Sancisi-Weerdenburg 1988). This lacuna was in large part a reflection, merely, of how few sites (of any period) have been excavated in eastern and central Turkey, and also of our failure to recognize material, especially pottery, immediately preceding the Hellenistic period. The gap seems to have been partially filled by the discovery of what appears to have been an imperial Median establishment on the west bank of the Euphrates, at Tille Höyük near Adıyaman. No single site to the east of the Euphrates has provided a clear and unambiguous stratified sequence spanning the entire length of the Iron Age. The position is little better in north-western Iran, although the full publication of Hasanlu should be of some value, or even in central western Iran (most recently Brown 1990, with references).

Three criteria for identifying Achaemenid sites will be discussed: 1 inscriptions, 2 architecture, 3 pottery. The sites to be discussed are Van, and, near Erzincan, Altıntepe (Cimin Tepe I) and Cimin Tepe II.

### *Inscriptions*

The only Achaemenid inscription in eastern Turkey known to the author is that of Xerxes I carved high on the sheer face of the citadel rock at Van (Weissbach 1911, 116–19; Young 1988, 77). The Great King boasts that he was the first Persian to order an inscription on the rock although his father Darius was responsible for the niche that he had presumably intended for his own inscription. It would seem that Darius had initiated a building programme at Van.

### *Architecture*

In Iran three capital cities of the Persians have been extensively excavated, Pasargadae, Persepolis and Susa, yielding a variety of standard building types the most notable of which is the large, rectangular, columned hall or apadana. Apadanas have been identified at two major sites which were previously

Uartian. In both cases it seems that extant Uartian masonry was incorporated into some of the Achaemenid building, especially the defences. The Uartian citadel of Arin-Berd (Uartian Erebuni) in the former Soviet Union (Forbes 1983, 14, 18, 20; Oganessian 1960; 1961; 1973; Losseva 1958, 179) was reoccupied in the Achaemenid period although it is not possible confidently to distinguish between Uartian and Achaemenid construction with the information provided in published reports. Another site in the Caucasus, Armavir (Uartian Argishtihinili) appears to have been continuously occupied from the Uartian to the Hellenistic period (Arakeljan 1971) but here too it is difficult to identify Achaemenid buildings. The similarity of buildings from the two periods need not cause surprise since the debt owed by the Achaemenids to Uartian architects, at least for a group of specialised buildings, is well known (e.g. Stronach 1967). Persian reoccupation of an Uartian stronghold is only known at one site in Eastern Turkey, Altintepe near Erzincan, where a major Achaemenid level with a massive apadana has been revealed (discussed below). The only other excavated Uartian site in Turkey that has provided evidence of reoccupation in the Achaemenid period, but where recognition of Achaemenid buildings is hampered by a plethora of later and earlier levels, is Van Kale (Uartian Tushpa). One additional site with rich and important finds apparently belonging to the Achaemenid period, and close to although not on top of a major Uartian centre of administration, is Paşa Tepe near Patnos to the north of Lake Van. Only the briefest of reports are available (Mellink 1964; 1965; Kroll 1976, 164–5 and n. 30). It has been suggested that this sparsity of Achaemenid period sites reflects the choice of sites which have attracted archaeologists (Sinclair 1987, 78), but it is more useful to consider that the much lower density of (recognized) Achaemenid sites, compared with the number of Uartian castles, represents a different response to controlling the highlands of eastern Turkey. To the Uartians the mountainous massif of eastern Anatolia was the homeland but to the Persians it was perhaps little more than a wild, inhospitable area of comparatively little value in an otherwise huge and wealthy empire.

### *Pottery*

Pottery from clear stratigraphic contexts of the Achaemenid period is sparse. There are several useful discussions of Iranian material (Dittmann 1985; Dyson 1965; Kroll 1975; 1976; Stronach 1974; 1978; Sumner 1986; Young 1965). Achaemenid pottery from the excavations conducted by Lake in 1939 in the Lower City at Van was erroneously attributed to the Uartians by von der Osten (1952; 1953). Almost nothing was known of the ceramic sequence in eastern Turkey and north-western Iran at the time when von der Osten wrote, first in 1939 and finally in 1948 (von der Osten 1952, 307). Very similar painted ware from Altintepe was recognised and briefly discussed by von der Osten (1940, 228–9) and in the light of the pottery from Van was also said to be of Uartian date. Following the dates assigned by von der Osten the painted pottery from the later excavations at Altintepe was thought to belong to the Uartian period (Emre 1969, especially 300–1). Achaemenid pottery has recently been found and correctly identified at Van Kale by Professor Taner Tarhan of Istanbul University (Tarhan 1989, 383, 387 nos. 6–11, Fig. 37 nos. 2–7; Tarhan and Sevin 1990, 360, 363 nos. 16–23, Fig. 12 nos. 12–20; Tarhan and Sevin 1991, 433, 437 no. 21, Fig. 15). Further results from Prof. Tarhan's excavations are anticipated. Triangle Ware has also been tentatively identified at Köşkerbaba Höyük in the Keban region (Bilgi 1991, 11, 13, 16, 28 Fig. 02.11.2). By 1969, with the burgeoning of Uartian excavations and studies by Turkish scholars, it was becom-

ing difficult to sustain an Urartian date for this pottery. It is now clear that these types of painted pottery from Van, Triangle Ware and Festoon Ware, do not begin before the Achaemenid period (Dittmann 1985; Forbes 1983, 59; Kroll 1976, 165; 1975, with references; Stronach 1974). The presence of painted Achaemenid pottery at Altintepe was noticed by Burney (Burney and Lang 1971, 158–9) during his survey of eastern Anatolia in 1955. Burney did not publish the pottery he collected from Altintepe and the sherds were not included in Russell's study of pottery from Burney's survey (Russell 1980). Young has also recognized the similarities between the Altintepe and Iranian pottery although he appears to favour an earlier date (Young 1988, 23 and n. 68).

The sherds collected by Burney are housed in the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara. They are marked Cimin Tepe I (= Altintepe = CAB site no. 112) and Cimin Tepe II (CAB site no. 113) respectively. The marking is in Indian ink and has been sealed with PVA. I am very grateful to Charles Burney for discussing this material with me when he passed through Ankara in 1990, for checking his field notes back in Manchester and for encouraging me to publish the material.

The pottery is described below under the respective sites, but some general comments are apposite here.

The pottery collected by Burney from Altintepe, his Cimin Tepe I, CAB site no. 112, is on Fig. 5 and Pl. XIII, that from the large site to the west, Cimin Tepe II, CAB site no. 113, makes up Figs. 6–9 and Pl. XIV. Fig. 5 nos. 1 and 2 would seem to be Byzantine or medieval, no. 4 is an Achaemenid painted sherd and no. 5 is presumably also Achaemenid since no vessels with the distinctive groove inside the rim have been published from Urartian contexts and because this bowl is very close in form to those published from Van by von der Osten (1952, 320 Fig. 1) as being found in association with the painted pottery. The colour and surface treatment of this sherd is, however, similar to Urartian wares. Nos. 7–16 are plain Iron Age rim sherds which it is difficult to date more precisely. No. 6 is surely Urartian. The plain Iron Age sherds can be divided to some extent according to ware and surface treatment. Nos. 7, 10 and 12 are very similar, as are nos. 9 and 13. It may well be that the smoothed but unburnished sherds 7, 10 and 12 are Achaemenid plain wares. No. 17 is a middle Iron Age sherd of grooved ware. It is hardly surprising that the majority of sherds collected from the surface of the mound before excavations began appear to belong to the later, Achaemenid, period (Level II) rather than to the earlier, Urartian period (Level I).

The pottery from Cimin Tepe II bears a close resemblance to the published pottery from Altintepe Level II (Emre 1969) and to some of the sherds collected from the surface by Burney. There are two classes of pottery, wheel-made and hand-made. The paste of the wheel-made vessels is usually red to pale red but can also be buff. The clay is fairly well levigated, well fired to a hard consistency and oxidized right through the wall of the fabric. Most pieces have a thin coat of buff slip which, where the fabric is of the same colour, might appear to be a wash or self slip but which is obvious on red fabrics. The slip is usually evenly and very thinly applied but can occasionally be streaky. Most pieces are very well and evenly burnished although the burnish is sometimes restricted to rims or panels where there is decoration in dark reddish or brownish paint which is over-burnished. The paint is matt but appears to be very glossy because of the burnish. Vessels with painted triangular motifs are commonly termed Triangle Ware. The coarse wares from Cimin Tepe II (described below) are partially or completely hand-made. Colour ranges through reddish brown to dark

brown to black and there are large quantities of fairly coarse grit temper. Vessels have a high burnish and although the individual strokes of the burnishing tool are clearly visible the coverage is even. At Cimin Tepe II it is clear that the two classes of ceramics, hand- and wheel-made, belong together because there is no indication of more than a single period. It is therefore possible to place the hand-made bowls from Altintepe (Cimin Tepe I) in the same period, that is, contemporary with the buff slipped and red painted wares of Achaemenid date.

Triangle Ware has not been reported from any pre-Achaemenid sites in north-western Iran (Dyson and Sumner pers. comm., Kroll 1976). The relatively poor preservation of the later Iron Age levels at Hasanlu, the paucity of pottery clearly associated with the (?)Achaemenid defences at Haftavan Tepe (Burney 1973, 165–9, 1975, 162) and the small amount of material from clearly pre-Parthian levels at Pasargadae have made the identification of Achaemenid ceramics somewhat uncertain. Extensive excavation of Urartian citadels, Bastam in north-western Iran (Kleiss 1979 and 1988), Karmir-Blur, Arin-Berd and Armavir in the former Soviet Republics and, most notably, Çavuştepe, Kef Kalesi and Kayalidere in eastern Turkey has failed to produce this distinctive pottery and therefore a post-Urartian date seems certain. Confidence in the correctness of this post-Urartian date is not eroded by the delay in publication of full excavation reports from most of these sites. Further proof, if it were needed, can be found in the absence of this pottery from the many excavated Urartian tombs including, to judge from the displays in Turkish museums which include large numbers of complete, unprovenanced Urartian vessels, those illicitly robbed.

Some mention must be made of the pottery belonging to the period of Median hegemony. The only site in eastern Turkey that can plausibly be attributed to the Medes is Tille Höyük (Summers in press). No pottery (except storage jars and two indeterminate vessels) was found on the floors or in the fill of the well preserved, monumental remains. One group of pots was found *in situ* associated with the construction or a very early phase of occupation (French 1988, 336, 341 Fig. 4). These vessels were almost indistinguishable from those of the preceding two levels (post-Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Assyrian respectively). In Iran a small amount of Median pottery has been identified at Bastam (Kroll 1979 B). Similar pottery has apparently been found at Arin-Berd (compare Kroll 1979 B, 231 Fig. 2 no. 12 and Pl. 58 no. 2 with Chodazasii *et al.* 1979, Pl. 87, p. 119). The same piece, however, is in Piotrovksy (1969, 212 and Pl. 63) where it is attributed to the site of Armavir (Argishtihinili) and dated to the eighth century. No distinctively Median pottery has been identified in eastern Turkey.

#### *Altintepe (Erzincan)*

Altintepe is situated some 17 kilometres east of Erzincan, towards the neck of the Euphrates valley at the head of the Erzincan plain (Fig. 1). It lies just north of the modern asphalt road from Erzincan to Erzurum in a flat, marshy area. The site, on top of a natural *tepe* (hill), affords a view of the route through the river valley and the rich agricultural land of the Erzincan plain. This hill-top position attracted settlers during the Early Bronze Age, the Urartian period, the Achaemenid Empire, the Byzantine and medieval periods (Özgüç and Saatçi 1984). There is no evidence at all for an occupation in the Hellenistic period (*contra* Sinclair 1989, 430–4). The mortared rubble composition of the late perimeter walls indicates a post-Hellenistic date.

The earliest visit was apparently by Garstang (1943, 49 Fig. 6; Barnett and

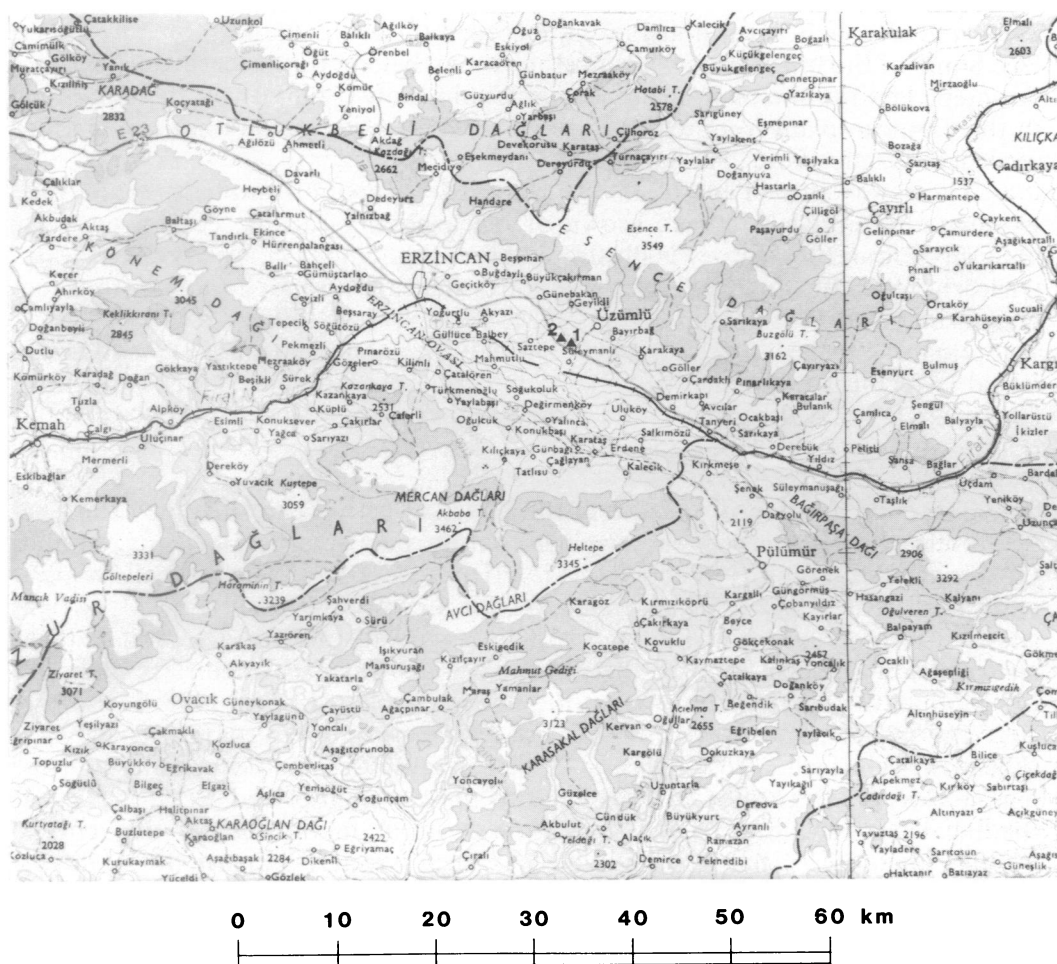


Fig. 1. Map of the Erzincan Plain showing the position of: 1 Aluntepe and 2 Cimin Tepe II, the river courses and modern road and rail links.

Gökce 1953, 121 n. 2) who recognised Early Bronze Age occupation. The site first became widely known in 1938 (von der Osten 1940; Bossert 1942 nos. 1186–94; Barnett and Gökce 1953). It was visited by Charles Burney during his survey of eastern Anatolia in 1955 (Burney and Lang 1971, 158).

Today the site is universally known as Altintepe but it also went by the name of Simi Sazlı Tepe (Barnett and Gökce 1953, 121 n. 2) and Cimin Tepe I (Burney, see above). The village of Cimin has been renamed Üzümlü (Fig. 1).

Excavations at Altintepe were conducted by Professor Tahsin Özgüç between the years 1959 and 1966 and the results have been presented in two excellent monographs (Özgüç 1966 and 1969) and in a number of reports (Özgüç 1961; 1963; 1964; 1966; 1967; Özgüç, N. 1974; Özgüç and Saatçi 1984). The work was initiated following the plunder of rich tombs, first in 1938, by workmen constructing the railway, and in 1956 during construction of the modern road (Özgüç 1969, 65). The phase plans included here have been redrawn from the original publications (Özgüç 1964; 1969).

The oldest levels reached by the excavator produced Early Bronze Age (Karaz/Early Trans-Caucasian) pottery which apparently showed some local characteristics. Typical Early Bronze Age, incised, black burnished pottery is

evident on the slopes. No building plans of this period appear to have been recovered although burnt houses were recorded (Özgüç 1961, 280; Mellink 1962, 80). Some of the unassigned walls on Fig. 2 may belong to this early occupation. Altintepe and the site of Küçüktepe near Cimin (now Üzümlü) are the only sites in the Erzincan plain from which Early Trans-Caucasian pottery has so far been recorded (Özgüç 1961, 280; Sagona 1984, 28).

There was then a hiatus in the recorded occupation until the Iron Age. Hand-made, grooved, reddish brown or black pottery can be seen on the site. One sherd found by Burney is illustrated here (Fig. 5 no. 17). The grooved ware is clearly related to (middle) Iron Age wares that are now well known from the Keban and Adıyaman regions (Işık 1987, Figs. 4, 7–9; French 1987, 206, 211; Hauptmann 1982, 31–2, Pl. 22 no. 5; Duru 1979: *passim*, Sevin 1991, with additional references; Summers 1993). Very similar pottery is known in Iran (Boehmer 1989). This pottery need not pre-date the earliest Urartian occupation on the site since there is evidence for at least three phases of construction in Level I (Fig. 3).

The configuration of the site in the Urartian period can to some extent be determined by reference to the original contour plan (Özgüç 1969, Fig. 1) and the aerial photograph (Özgüç 1966, Pl. VII no. 2). Two defensive walls apparently surrounded the site (Özgüç 1969, 60; for a comparison with other Urartian sites see Kleiss 1983). The innermost of the two walls belongs to Level II (discussed below). Much more of the defensive walls was excavated, especially on the south-east side, than appears on the published plan (Forbes 1983, 21).

The magazine, with its rows of storage jars bearing Urartian hieroglyphics (Klein 1974; Laroche 1969, 124) and stone column bases identical to those of the temple cloister (Özgüç 1969, 75) belongs to the Urartian period, i.e. it is part of the excavator's Altintepe Level I as is made clear in the text of the reports (Özgüç 1969, 75–7), but the magazine has been wrongly assigned to Altintepe Level II on the published plan (Özgüç 1969, Fig. 3; compare with Figs. 2–4 here). The approximate alignment of the magazine with the later Achaemenid buildings is fortuitous and does not provide grounds for assigning it to the later period. The stratigraphy was decisive since the Altintepe Level II defensive wall destroyed part of the magazine complex (Özgüç 1969, 75). The line of outer defensive wall which can be seen on the aerial view (Özgüç 1966, Pl. VII no. 2) seems to have more or less defined the 1200 m. contour line (Özgüç 1969, Fig. 1) and to have enclosed the tombs, the open air shrine and the magazine together with extensive unexcavated remains in the lower area on the north side.

The Urartian structures in the upper area of the site belong to more than one phase. The earliest in the sequence of internal structures clearly belonging to the Urartian period (the excavator's Level I) is the partially surviving building some of which was demolished by the Urartian structure to the south-west of the temple complex (Fig. 3 earlier phase). The building consists of a range of rectangular rooms, orientated north-west/south-east, with buttressed doorways leading into the south-western corners of two rooms from an external area. Internal doorways connect the three rooms. The only room that was completely intact measures c. 5 × 3 m. with walls c. 1 m. thick. The northern end of the building seems to have been replaced by the later phase structure. It is unclear what happened to the southern end. The building does not observe the alignment of the main temple complex and was probably an earlier construction although the two extant rooms remained standing until the end of Level I.

The second discernible phase consists of the well-known temple and its surrounding colonnade which was an integral part of the complex, as is clear from

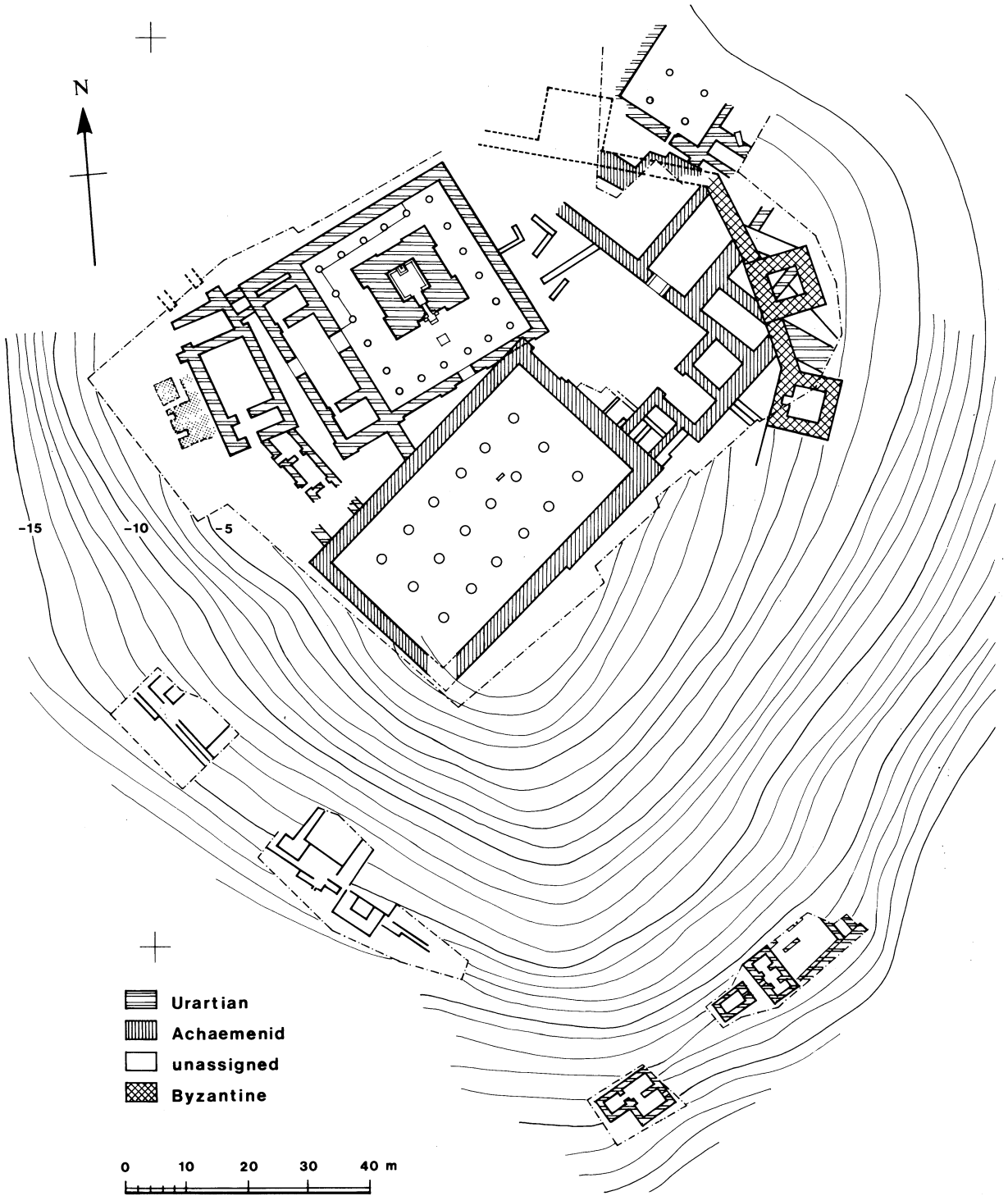


Fig. 2. Composite plan of Altıntepe (after Özgüç).

both the alignment and the excavator's observation that there was only a single floor surface. Walls belonging to this main Urartian phase continue under the Achaemenid apadana (Özgüç 1966, 43) and traces of the associated buildings emerging from beneath the south-east wall of the apadana can be seen by the



visitor. These walls do not appear on any of the published plans. The magazine ("store house") in the outer area to the north-east was presumably constructed as part of the same original scheme since the andesite column bases appear to be identical with those in the temple colonnade (Özgüç 1969, 75) but the sequence may, of course, have been more complex. There is no independent evidence (i.e. building inscription) to help date the temple exactly, but the highly developed plan of the temple complex may indicate a date towards the end of the Urartian period. The built tombs and open-air shrine were perhaps built after the temple complex although again there is no evidence for the sequence of construction.

The plan of the temple complex is unique in the repertoire of Urartian architecture (Fig. 3). Although the plan of the temple itself has been reproduced many times its relationship to the surrounding colonnade and associated entrance building to the south-west has received scant attention. The cella has a number of close parallels (Forbes 1983, chapter IV; Salvini 1979; Tarhan and Sevin 1975; Stronach 1967; 1978, 133; Naumann 1968; Kleiss 1963–64) but the surrounding colonnade has only one parallel, and that not exact, at Arin-Berd.<sup>1</sup> The original complex (Fig. 3 main phase) consisted of a temenos wall the south-east façade of which was buttressed. There were two entrances. That on the south-east side was on the central axis of the cella. It appears to have given access from a large open court which mostly lies beneath the later apadana. The north-west limit of this court was defined by a continuation of the north-west wall of the colonnade. The second entrance was from the south-west (Özgüç 1966, 42). A wide doorway led from the outside into an entrance hall and an inner doorway on the same axis opened into the colonnade. The axis of this entrance is in the centre of the south-west side of the complex. It does not fall in the middle of the south-west façade of the cella which is set towards the rear of the colonnaded area. The entrance hall is flanked by rectangular rooms. According to the plan (Özgüç 1966, Pl. IV, compared with the text on p. 42) the symmetry is not quite perfect because of the inclusion of an additional wall which was surely the base of a staircase appended to the north-west end. There is no evidence to suggest that the staircase led up to a second floor rather than on to the roof. These rooms were associated with the temple and its ritual (Özgüç 1966, 42).

The building to the south-west of the temple entrance hall was an addition. This is obvious from its alignment, the way in which it obscures the pair of doorways of the entrance hall and because the connecting walls are shown as abutting the south-west wall of the temenos (Özgüç 1969 Fig. 3 but not on the larger scale drawing Özgüç 1966, Pl. IV). This building also replaced the northern end of an earlier range of small rooms (Fig. 3). There is nothing to indicate the function of these additional buildings but no domestic installations have been reported from them. To the south-west of the secondary building, and laid up against the south-west face of the wall, was a cobbled courtyard floor made of brightly coloured river pebbles laid randomly. The vividness and quality of the cobbled floor reminded the excavator of a mosaic, but it does not contain any pattern (Özgüç 1966, 43, Pl. XVI, 1–2). Excavated structures to the west of this floor were not recorded on the plan. The assertion that these rooms were the service and living quarters of the palace (Özgüç 1966, 43) may be doubted. It is far more probable that these rooms were connected with the temple area and that the palace or residence should be sought in the lower area of the site. The

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<sup>1</sup> The colonnaded quadrangle at Arin-Berd is in front of the temple, not surrounding it.

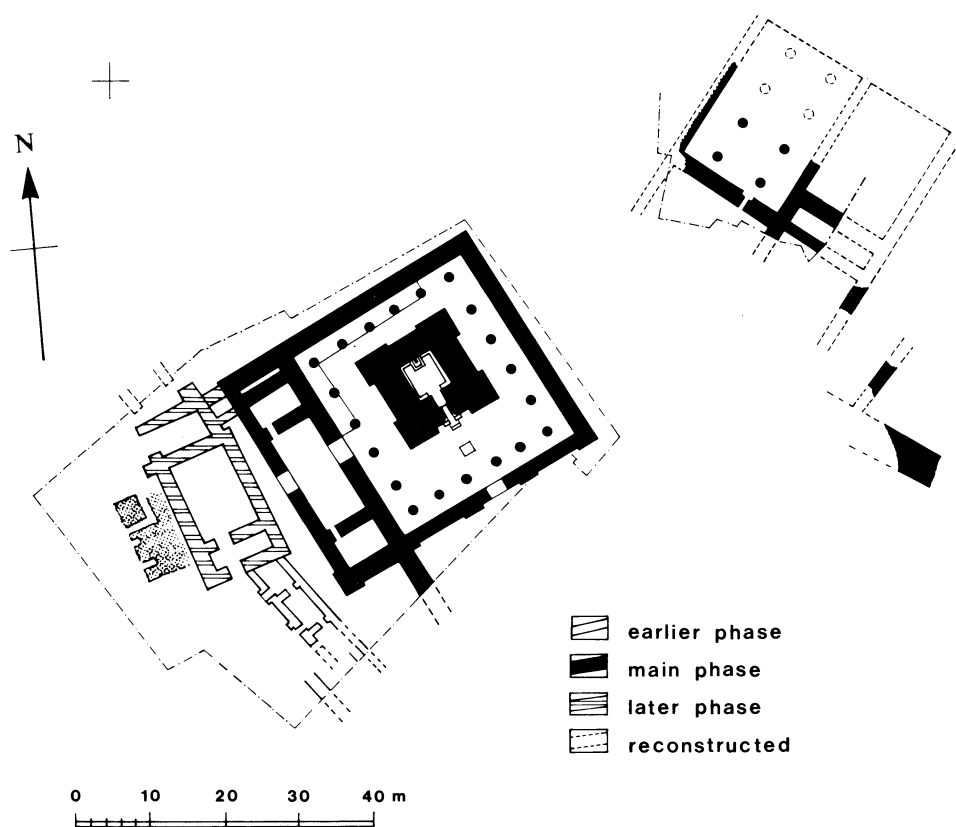


Fig. 3. Plan of the Uartian buildings of Altintepe Level I (after Özgüç with some reconstruction and phasing).

original position of two andesite blocks depicting a lion and a standing male figure in relief, seemingly from the same frieze, apparently found at Altintepe (?in 1938) and now in the Ankara museum (Akurgal 1961, 31, 36 Pl. 13; Metzger 1969, 239, Pl. 6), are unknown but they indicate the existence of monumental buildings (?at Altintepe) that have yet to be found.<sup>2</sup>

The temple complex was not violently destroyed but abandoned to the elements. It has very plausibly been suggested that earthquakes brought about its ruin (Özgüç 1961, 278–9; Mellink 1962, 79). The apadana itself was built partially over the south-east wall of the temenos (Özgüç 1966, 44) and over the

<sup>2</sup> Ankara Museum Registration Number 19009, unpublished relief of a standing male figure, facing right, badly damaged. Ankara Museum Registration Number 19010, a block with a lion carved in relief on one side, not an orthostat or a portal lion. The rear end has a drafted margin (Akurgal 1961, Pl. 13 extreme left end) indicating that the lion was at the back of a procession. The style is Uartian (Akurgal 1961, 31, Pls. 13–15). The length of the lion block is 0.79 m; both blocks are the same height. According to the Ankara Museum Register both blocks came from Erzurum on 30 May 1958 but no other details are recorded. Akurgal (1961, 31) gives the provenance as Erzincan, Metzger (1969, 231) gives Altintepe. I am grateful to the Director of Ankara Museum, Bey İlhan Temizsoy, for checking the Museum *defter* and relaying the information therein. I assume that the blocks were originally taken from Altintepe to Erzurum and subsequently moved to Ankara when the Anatolian Civilizations Museum was being established.

Uartian levels outside it. The floor level of the apadana is considerably higher than the floor of the temple and the top of the stone courses in the base of the cella walls. Further, the Level II defensive wall on the north-east, which is described as having been hastily built of reused Uartian monumental masonry (Özgüç 1969, 76), and the amount of Uartian spolia that can be seen in the footings of the apadana itself and in the associated buildings all suggest that there was a break in occupation and that the new occupant showed no regard for any of the pre-existing structures (Forbes 1983, 59). Whatever the date of the Uartian abandonment of Altintepe, an event for which there is no good evidence, the site surely lay empty for at least a hundred years until it was re-established by the Persians. The newcomers would have been presented with a great pile of eroding mud brick from beneath which ready-made quarries of dressed stone poked out.

Dating of the Uartian occupation of Altintepe has usually been discussed in relation to the contents of the tombs (most recently by Çilingiroğlu 1984, *passim*). The name Urikki was restored on an inscribed Uartian bronze vessel, and was identified as the same Urikki who was king of Cilicia between 740–732 B.C. (Steinherr 1958). This reading is sometimes taken as evidence for an eighth-century foundation (most recently by Forbes 1983, 110), but it has been seriously called into question (Klein 1974, 87). C. A. Burney could find no evidence that it was founded before the reign of Argishti II (c. 714–c. 685 B.C.) (Burney and Lang 1971, 144, 146, 149–52, 158–60; also see Azarpay 1968, 83 n. 36) as was originally suggested by Barnett and Gökce (1953) and seemingly confirmed by Özgüç's discovery of fragmentary inscriptions in the tombs, including the name Argishti (Özgüç, N. 1974, 859–60; Özgüç 1961, 274; 1969, 70; Klein 1974, 78 n. 6). An earlier date for the construction of the temple complex and contemporary structures (Altintepe level I) was later favoured by the excavator (Özgüç 1969, 70–1). A higher date was also proposed on historical and epigraphic grounds (Klein 1974, 92–3).

Altintepe level II was ascribed to the late Uartian period in the reports on the basis of von der Osten's date for the pottery discussed above (Özgüç 1969, 63; 1964, 21; 1963, 41, 45, 48; Emre 1969, 291–2, 298). The similarity of the apadana and its wall paintings to the Achaemenid painted hall at Arin-Berd was, however, emphasized by the excavator (Özgüç 1963, 44–5, n. 2, 3; 1966, 46) and its Achaemenid affinities were clearly recognised. In order to surmount the problem raised by the apparently early date of the pottery an Uartian origin for Achaemenid apadanas was postulated (Özgüç 1963, 45; 1966, 45–6).

More of the Level II defensive wall was excavated than is shown on the plans. There are buttresses at 11 m. intervals which project forward 1 m. and are 5.25 m. long (Özgüç 1961, 277). The masonry is cyclopean and contains much spolia, there is a mud-brick superstructure. The Level II wall approximately follows the minus 5 m. contour, it has been partially exposed to the south-east of the apadana (Fig. 4) but its exact line has been obscured by the Byzantine defences (Fig. 2 and Özgüç 1969, Fig. 34).

The excavated internal buildings of Level II (Fig. 4) comprise an apadana with three rows of six huge limestone column bases, making 18 in all. The bases are roughly finished and may have supported mud-brick columns rather than timber ones on account of their size, as suggested by the excavator. Although no mud-brick was recognised mud-brick columns with a coating of mud-plaster that also covered the stone bases would account for the poor finish of the bases. The function of the apadana and of the buildings to the north-east remains unclear.

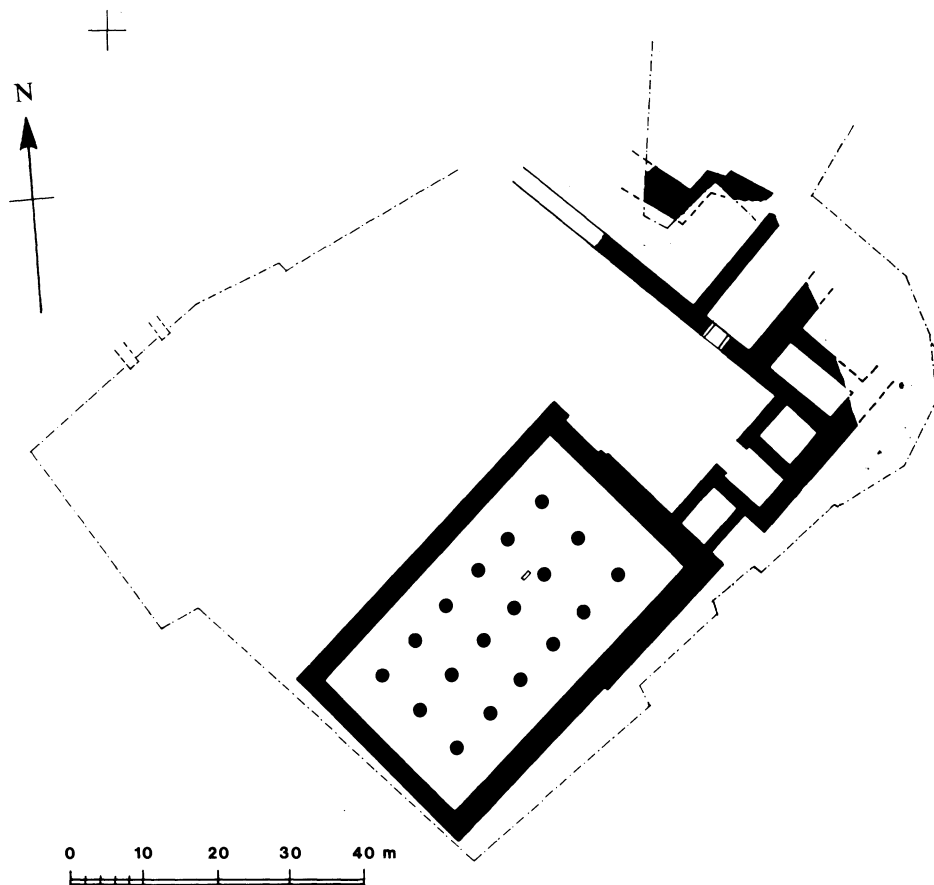


Fig. 4. Plan of the Achaemenid buildings of Altintepe Level II (after Özgüç).

There is no recognizable evidence for occupation at Altintepe during the Median period and it was probably during this time that the buildings of the Urartian period crumbled. The rich finds from the temple are surely evidence that the site was abandoned hurriedly at the end of the Urartian occupation. The provincial Achaemenid architecture at Altintepe is so far unique in the western satraps but it does demonstrate that the reuse of Urartian sites in the Soviet Union was general Achaemenid practice. The apadana is massive in scale, richly adorned and, together with the associated buildings, protected by a defensive wall.

#### *Cimin Tepe II*

On the next prominent hill (*tepe*) to the west of Altintepe and about the same distance to the north of the main Erzincan road is evidence for an extensive settlement. Again the site was first visited by C. A. Burney during his survey in 1955 (Burney and Lang 1971, 158). Since then a reservoir and agricultural station have been built over a part of the site, the latter now lying abandoned, and a vehicular track has been carved up the southern slope. In the side of the cutting made for the track a single shallow level of stone foundation pokes out. The flat sloping surface of the hill-top is strewn with rubble but no cut blocks are extant. The pottery collected by Burney (Figs. 6–9) has very close affinities with that from level II at Altintepe and surely belongs to the same period.

*Other Evidence from the Vicinity*

Evidence for the existence of an Achaemenid presence of some importance in the vicinity of Erzincan may be found in the nine silver objects from the Franks Bequest presented to the British Museum in 1897 (Dalton 1964, lx, cat. nos. 178–86).<sup>3</sup> The objects are reported as having been “found near Erzincan”. No other information is available concerning the discovery but it is probable that the objects were found together, perhaps in a grave. However that may be, it is reasonable to associate the objects with the Achaemenid occupation at Altintepe and Cimin Tepe II even though they may not have come directly from either site. The silver objects are thoroughly Persian in character.

Equally intriguing is the report of the discovery in 1938 of 20 silver bars, some with cuneiform inscriptions (in what language?), weighing a total of 15 kilos. This hoard (20 of ingots) was apparently found at a nearby hill two days after the find at Altintepe itself (Barnett and Gökce 1953, 121 n. 3). The nearby hill was most probably Cimin Tepe II.

*Conclusion*

It is the contention here that Altintepe level II and Cimin Tepe II are two component parts of a single site or complex of sites. The plain between the two hills could have accommodated a spacious settlement containing among other things the canals, gardens and pavilions so loved by the Achaemenids (Stronach 1989). The architecture of Altintepe level II, the painted pottery from both sites and some if not all of the silver are Persian in character and owe nothing to local tradition. Surely, then, the seat of the Satrap of the nineteenth province in the list of Herodotus, the Satrapy of Western Armenia, was located here.<sup>4</sup> The location is an obvious one lying in the centre of the Satrapy. The plain of Erzincan is fertile and well watered producing, in spite of the altitude and consequently long and harsh winters, agricultural wealth. It straddles the east–west route that today is followed by both the railway and the road and guards the valley of the Euphrates as it turns south-westwards, followed by another artery of the railway system, to Malatya.

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<sup>3</sup> I am grateful to Dr. John Curtis for the following information and concordance (letters dated 16 April and 25 August, 1992): “unfortunately Franks’s original records of purchase do not survive”. The concordance between the Oxus Treasure (OT) catalogue numbers and the British Museum numbers of the pieces is as follows:

OT 178 = BM 124081  
 OT 179 = BM 123265  
 OT 180 = BM 124082  
 OT 181 = BM 123259  
 OT 182 = BM 123258  
 OT 183 = BM 123255  
 OT 184 = BM 123256  
 OT 185 = BM 123263  
 OT 186 = BM 123264

<sup>4</sup> The geographical boundaries of the satrapies are, of course, contentious. Here I have followed the sensible map presented by Roaf (1990, 208–9) for the approximate position of the 19th satrapy.

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## CATALOGUE

Fig. 5. Altıntepe (Cimin Tepe I) C. A. Burney site No. 112.

1. Cooking pot, Pl. XIII (*b*) no. 4; wheel-made, grit temper, grey core, brown surfaces, striated, thin slip or wash, inside crazed. D 0-20. (?)Late.
2. Bowl, Pl. XIII (*b*) no. 1; wheel-made, hard, grit temper, striated, thin pale brown slip. D 0-28. (?)Late.
3. Neck, Pl. XIII (*a*) no. 5; wheel-made, hard, fine grit temper, brownish red, (?)slipped, burnished. D 0-10. (?)Achaemenid.
4. Sherd, Pl. XIII (*a*) no. 3; wheel-made, fine sparse grit temper, buff, outside cream slip, red paint, fine and even overburnish. Achaemenid.
5. Bowl with groove inside rim, Pl. XIII (*a*) no. 6, outer profile of rim reconstructed; wheel-made, grit temper, red, red slipped and burnished (10R 4/8), D (reconstructed) 0-35. Achaemenid. Similar sherds were found in association with Triangle ware at Van (von der Osten 1952; 1953).
6. Bowl, Pl. XIII (*a*) no. 4; wheel-made, grit temper, red, red slipped and finely burnished (10R 5/8). D 0-16. Urartian.
7. Bowl, Pl. XIII (*b*) no. 2; wheel-made, grit temper, reddish brown, fugitive burnish. D 0-020. (?)Achaemenid.
8. Bowl, Pl. XIII (*a*) no. 4; wheel-made, grit temper with occasional large grits (>9 mm.), red slipped and burnished, pronounced horizontal burnishing marks outside. D 0-32. (?)Achaemenid.
9. Bowl, Pl. XIII (*a*) no. 8; (?)wheel-made, dark reddish brown, coarse grit temper proud of surface inside, (?)slipped, burnished. D 0-27. (?)Achaemenid.
10. Bowl, Pl. XIII (*b*) no. 5; wheel-made, grit temper, reddish brown, smoothed. D 0-26. Achaemenid.
11. Bowl, Pl. XIII (*a*) no. 7; wheel-made, grit temper with occasional large grits, red slipped with mottled black to red surfaces and even horizontal burnishing. D 0-28. (?)Achaemenid.
12. Bowl, Pl. XIII (*a*) no. 10; wheel-made, grit temper, reddish brown, smoothed. D 0-165. Achaemenid.
13. Jar, Pl. XIII (*b*) no. 3; (?)hand-made, coarse (>5 mm.), grit temper proud of surface inside, reddish brown slip (2.5YR 4/6), evenly burnished with individual strokes clearly visible. D 0-15. Achaemenid.
14. Jar, Pl. XIII (*b*) no. 7; (?)hand-made, coarse (>5 mm.) grit temper proud of surface inside, grey to brown, slipped, evenly burnished with individual strokes clearly visible. D 0-22. Achaemenid.
15. Jar, Pl. XIII (*a*) no. 9; (?)hand-made, grit temper, red to orangey-red, slip, even burnish which has crazed. D 0-25. Achaemenid.
16. Jar, Pl. XIII (*b*) no. 6; grit temper, brownish red, outside pale brown slipped and burnished. D 0-20. Achaemenid.
17. Sherd of Ribbed Ware, Pl. XIII (*a*) no. 2; hand-made, grit temper, grey to pale brown, raised outside surfaces lightly burnished. Iron Age.

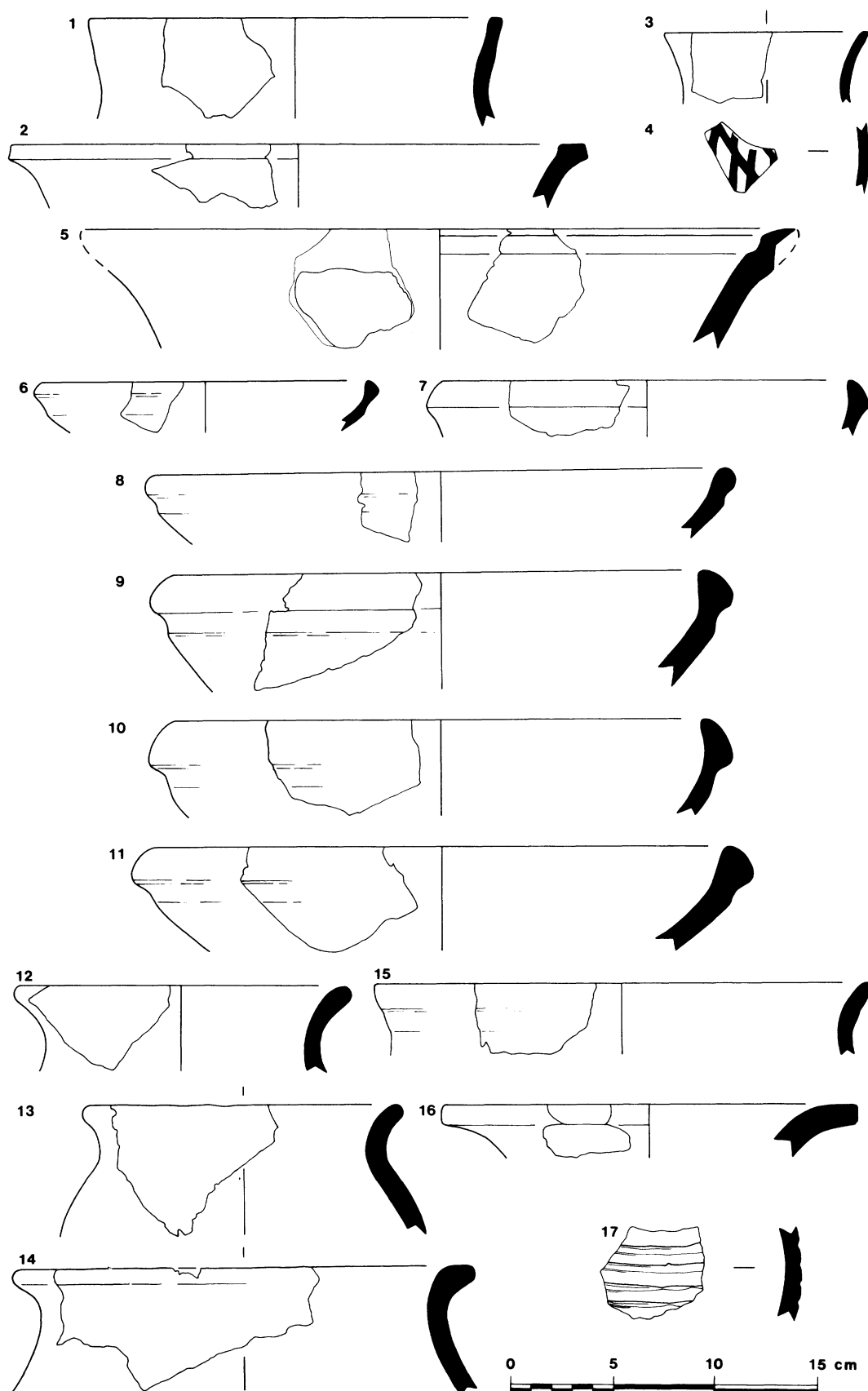


Fig. 5. Pottery from Altuntepe (Cimin Tepe I, CAB Site 112) collected by C. A. Burney in 1955.

Fig. 6. Cimin Tepe II C. A. Burney site No. 113

1. Bowl; wheel-made, grit (including white) temper, buff, some pitting of surfaces, red paint (10R 4/6) on top of rim, fugitive overburnish. D 0-19.
2. Bowl, Pl. XIV (*a*) no. 8; wheel-made, grit (including white) temper, buff, some pitting of surfaces, thin cream slip, red paint (10R 4/8) on top of rim, fugitive overburnish. D 0-245.
3. Bowl; wheel-made, grit (including white) temper, buff, some pitting of surfaces, fugitive red paint (10R 4/6) on top of rim, fugitive overburnish. D 0-21.
4. Rim sherd; wheel-made, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip, fugitive red paint (2.4YR 4/8), pattern unclear, overburnished. D 0-14.
5. Rim sherd, Pl. XIV (*a*) no. 9; wheel-made, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip, fugitive red paint (2.5YR 4/8), overburnished. D 0-16.
6. Rim sherd; wheel-made, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip, fugitive red paint (2.5YR 4/8), overburnished.
7. Sherd; wheel-made, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip, fugitive red paint (2.5YR 4/8), overburnished.
8. Sherd from jar shoulder; wheel-made, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip, fugitive red paint (2.5YR 4/8), overburnished.
9. Sherd; wheel-made, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip outside, bright red paint (2.5YR 5/8), overburnished.
10. Sherd, Pl. XIV (*a*) no. 1; wheel-made, hard, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip, brown paint (5YR 5/6), overburnished.
11. Sherd, Pl. XIV (*a*) no. 3; wheel-made, hard, fine grit temper, light red, thin buff slip outside, bright red paint (2.5YR 5/8), overburnished.
12. Sherd, Pl. XIV (*a*) no. 2; wheel-made, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip outside, red paint (2.5YR 6/6), overburnished.
13. Sherd, Pl. XIV (*a*) no. 4, wheel-made, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip, fugitive red paint (2.5YR 4/8), overburnished.
14. Sherd; wheel-made, hard, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip, brown paint (5YR 5/6), overburnished.
15. Sherd from jar shoulder; wheel-made, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip, brown paint (5YR 5/6), overburnished.
16. Sherd from jar shoulder; wheel-made, fine grit temper, buff, thin buff slip, bands of fugitive paint (5YR 5/6), overburnished.
17. Sherd from jar shoulder; grit temper, pale brown, thin buff slip outside, dark red paint (2.5YR 4/6), overburnished.
18. Sherd from jar shoulder; grit temper, buff, thin buff slip outside, red paint (2.5YR 4/8), overburnished.
19. Sherd from jar shoulder; grit temper, light red, red paint (2.5YR 5/6), overburnished.

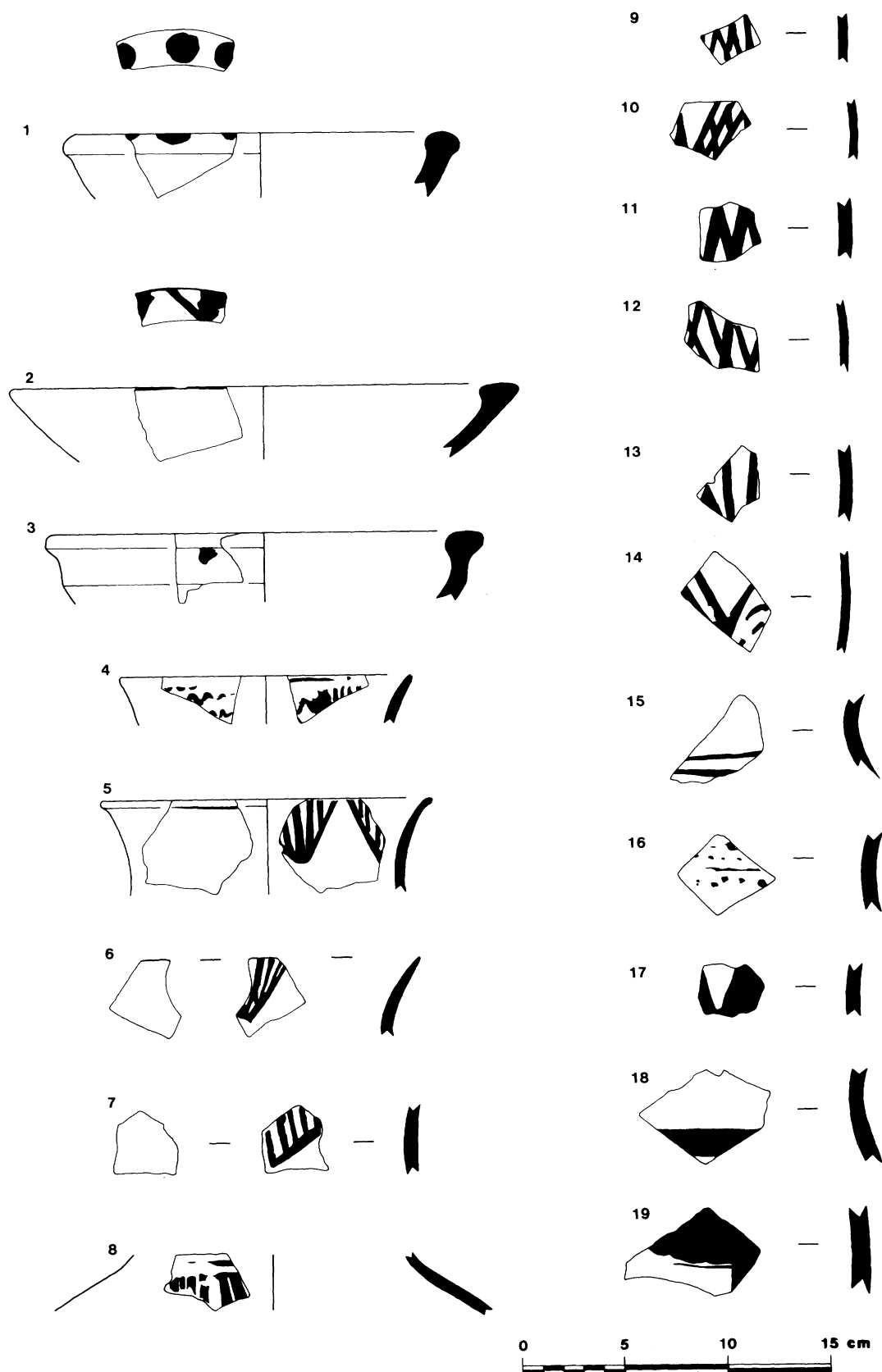


Fig. 6. Triangle Ware from Cimin Tepe II (CAB Site 113) collected by C. A. Burney in 1955.

Fig. 7. Cimin Tepe II C. A. Burney site No. 113

1. Bowl with club rim; wheel-made, hard, clinky, grit temper, brownish buff, pale red core, very fine striations, concentric lines in red paint (10R 4/8) on top of rim, overburnished. D 0-30.
2. Small wide-mouthed jar, Pl. XIV (a) no. 6; wheel-made, hard, clinky, grit temper (including some coarse white grits that have spalled), pale red, the core is a thin sandwich of red-grey-red-grey-red, very fine striations on rim, thin white slip outside carried over inside of rim, horizontal line of matt red paint (2.5YR 4/8). D 0-12.
3. Wide-mouthed jar, Pl. XIV (a) no. 10; wheel-made, heavy fine grit temper and occasional large grits, pitted interior, buff, thin buff slip outside carried over inside rim, brownish red painted band on outside of rim and panel on shoulder, patterned areas overburnished. D 0-18.
4. Sherd from neck and shoulder of jar, Pl. XIV (a) no. 7; wheel-made, hard, grit (including grey and white) temper, light red, thin white slip outside, brownish red painted panel, overburnished.
5. Wide-mouthed jar with shallow ledge inside rim; wheel-made, grit temper, pale red, fine striations on rim, bands of red paint (10R 5/8), overburnishing restricted to patterned areas. D 0-24.
6. Bowl; wheel-made, hard, grit temper, pale brown, surfaces pitted, smoothed. D 0-20.
7. Bowl, Pl. XIV (b) no. 2; wheel-made but with trimming marks outside, hard, grit (including grey and white) temper, light red, thin white slip outside, brownish red painted panel, overburnished. D 0-17.
8. Jar with ledge-rim; wheel-made, hard, fine grit temper with occasional large grits, buff, fine striations, very thin buff slip outside carried over inside of rim. D 0-22.
9. Jar with ledge-rim, Pl. XIV (b) no. 1; wheel-made, hard, clinky, grit temper (including grey and white), light red, pale reddish brown inside, pale brown outside, deeply pitted inside and some shallow pitting outside, very fine striations on outside of rim, thin buff slip very unevenly applied. D. 0-19.
10. Wide-mouthed jar; wheel-made, fine grit temper with occasional large grits, brownish buff, heavily pitted inside, self slip or wash on outside of neck. D 0-21.
11. Sherd, Pl. XIV (a) no. 5; grit temper, brown, smoothed inside, thick white slip outside, thin lines in red paint (10R 4/8), overburnished.
12. Sherd; wheel-made, hard, clinky, grit temper with occasional large grits, pale grey, thin white slip outside, dark brown paint, overburnished.
13. Sherd from shoulder of jar; hard, fine grit temper, buff, dark reddish brown paint, overburnished.
14. Sherd; hard, grit temper, pale brownish red, some pitting inside, reddish brown paint, overburnished.

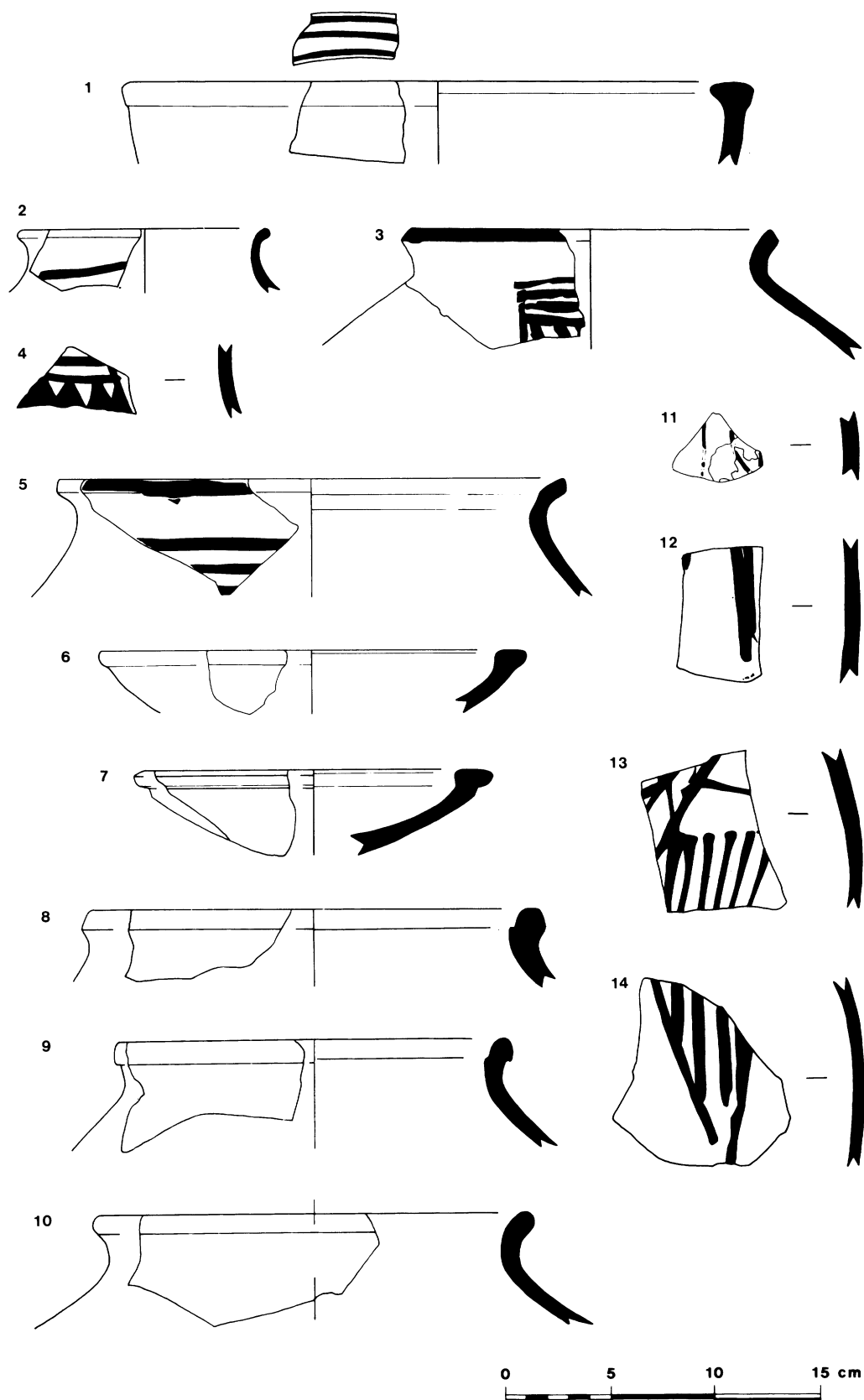


Fig. 7. Triangle Ware and wheel-made plain ware from Cimin Tepe II (CAB Site 113) collected by C. A. Burney in 1955.

Fig. 8. Cimin Tepe II C. A. Burney site No. 113

1. Jar with narrow neck; wheel-made, hard, clinky, grit temper (including grey and white), brownish red, pitted inside, outside and inside of neck evenly pale brown burnished and very slightly pitted. D 0-045.
2. Jar with trefoil mouth; wheel-made, hard, grit temper (including grey), brownish buff, fine striations inside, finger marks from shaping of mouth outside, plain with occasional pitting. D 0-12.
3. Jar with lip or trefoil mouth; wheel-made, hard, grit temper, light red, pale grey core, reddish brown burnish outside. D neck 0-05.
4. Wide-mouthed jar with one drilled mending hole; hand-made, fine grit temper, brown, thick grey core, well burnished with slightly soapy texture. D 0-18.
5. Wide-mouthed jar with two drilled mending holes; hand-made, fine grit temper, brown, surfaces mottled brown to pale brown, burnished. D 0-18.
6. Cooking pot with one extant lug on rim; hand-made, vegetable and grit temper, brown (much burnt black), there is a streaky burnish outside that is carried over inside the rim, the burnish is crazed, and areas have flaked away. D 0-17. About one-third complete.
7. Cooking pot; hand-made, grit temper, pale red, pale reddish brown surfaces with a patch burnt grey to black, some pitting, poor burnish with individual strokes visible, crazed inside. D 0-145.
8. Heavy jar neck; hand-made, grit temper, reddish brown, thick grey core, burnished with individual strokes visible. D 0-21.
9. Bowl with simple inturned rim. Pl. XIV (*b*) no. 6; hand-made, grit temper, grey to black, some pitting, horizontal striations inside and outside rim, irregular striations on the lower exterior, well but evenly burnished with the interior burnish below the rim slanted at 45 degrees. D 0-24.
10. Whole-mouth jar, Pl. XIV (*b*) no. 5; hand-made, hard, grit temper, brown, surfaces brown to grey, well and evenly burnished outside. D 0-30.

Fig. 9. Cimin Tepe II C. A. Burney site No. 113

1. Bowl; (?)wheel-made, grit temper, grey to brown, some fine striations inside, (?)slipped, brown burnished (5YR 4/4). D 0-245.
2. Bowl; hand-made, grit (including coarse and very coarse) temper, grey to reddish brown, slipped or self slipped, inside reddish brown, outside brown to dark brown, burnished, crazed inside. D 0-26.
3. Bowl, Pl. XIV (*b*) no. 3; hand-made, grit temper, dark brown, (?)slipped, brown burnished (7.5YR 3/4) horizontally outside and on rim but radially inside with clear individual strokes—almost a pattern burnish. D 0-26.
4. Bowl with drilled mending hole; hand-made, coarse grit temper, grey, pale reddish brown surfaces, burnished. D 0-30.
5. Bowl with drilled mending hole; hand-made, coarse grit temper, grey to brown, burnished. D 0-265.
6. Bowl, XIV (*b*) no. 4; hand-made, coarse grit temper, pale grey, (?)self slipped, red with some grey mottling outside, burnished with individual marks prominently visible inside. D 0-38.
7. Bowl; hand-made, coarse grit temper, grey to brown, burnished. D 0-29.
8. Bowl; (?)wheel-made, grit temper, grey to brown, some fine striations inside, (?)slipped, brown burnished (5YR 4/4). D 0-36.

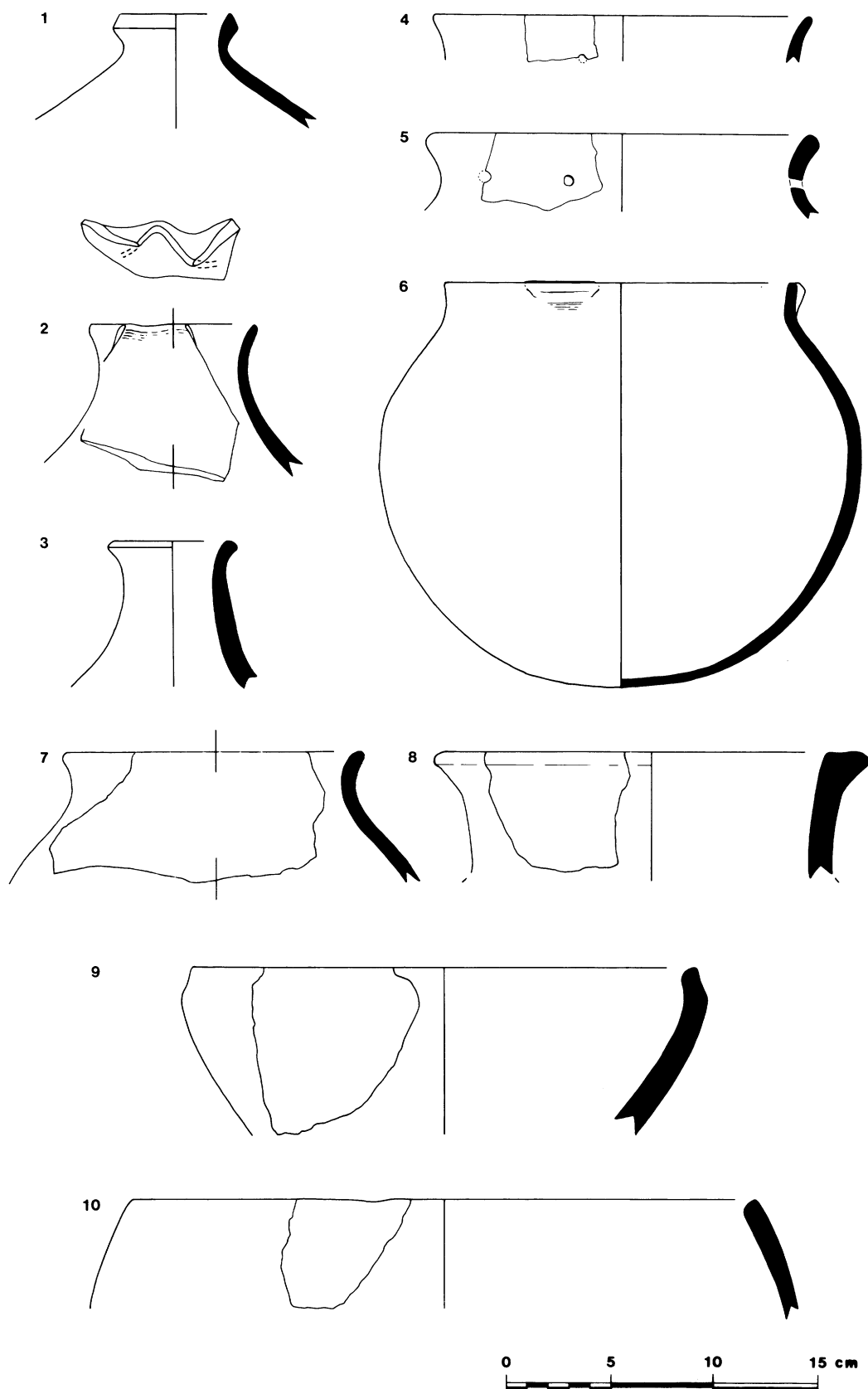


Fig. 8. Wheel-made and hand-made plain ware from Cimin Tepe II (CAB Site 113) collected by C. A. Burney in 1955.



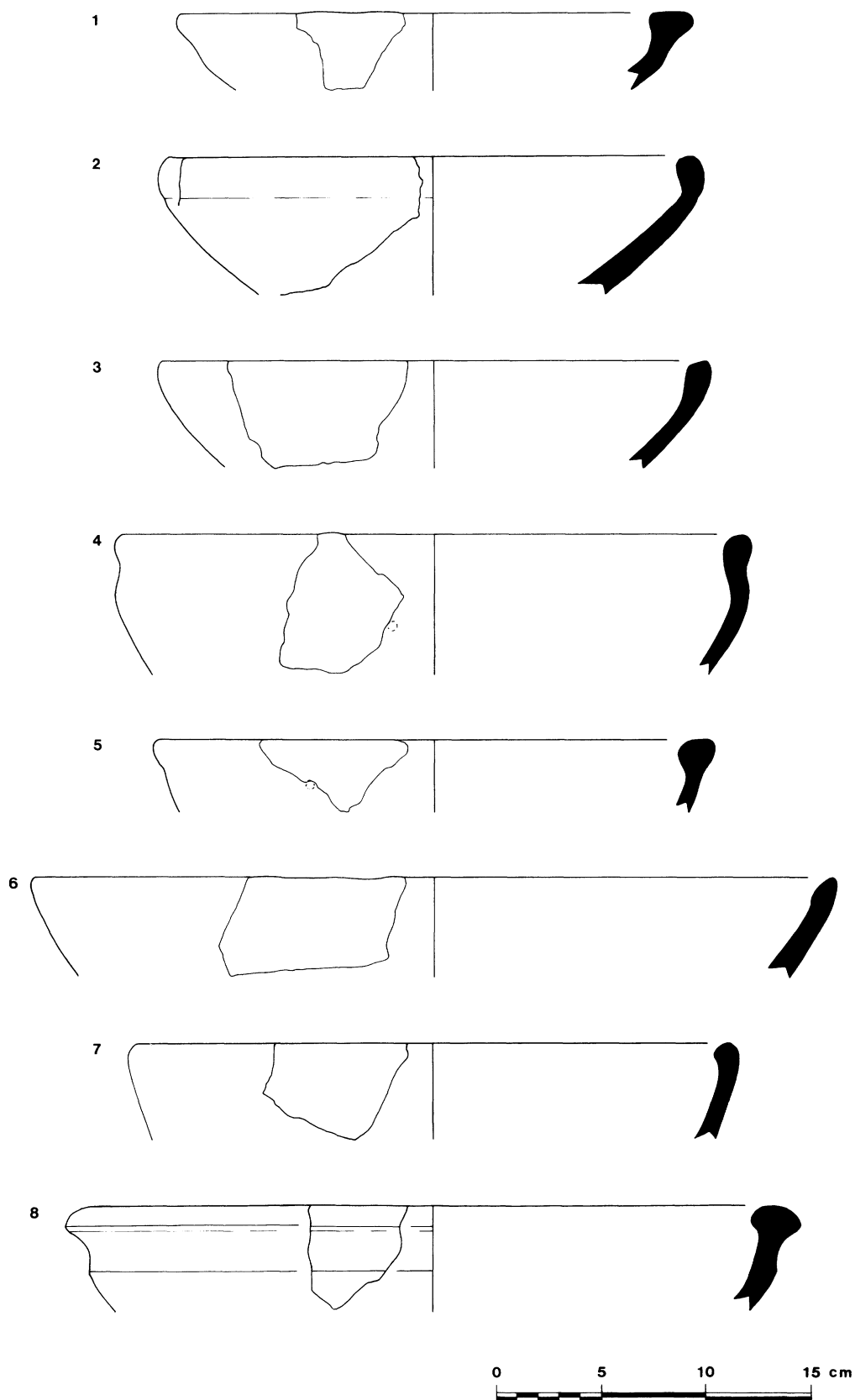
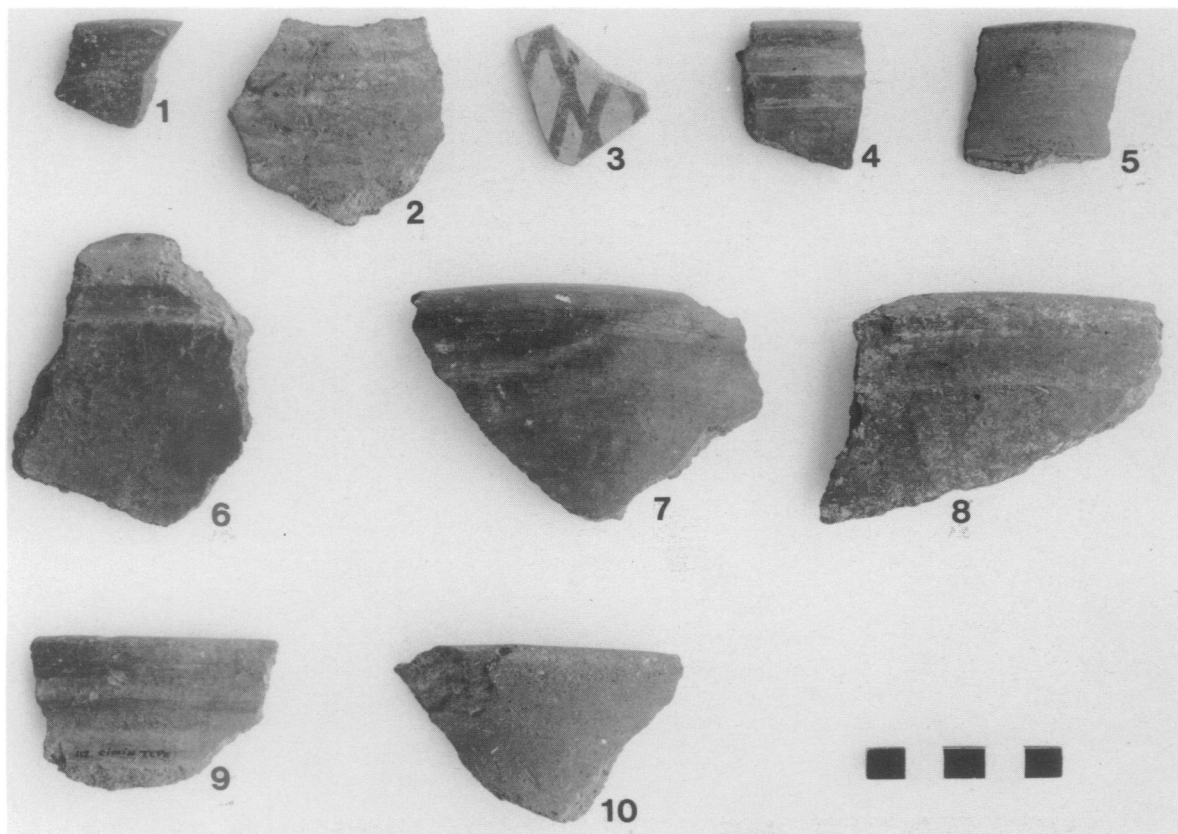
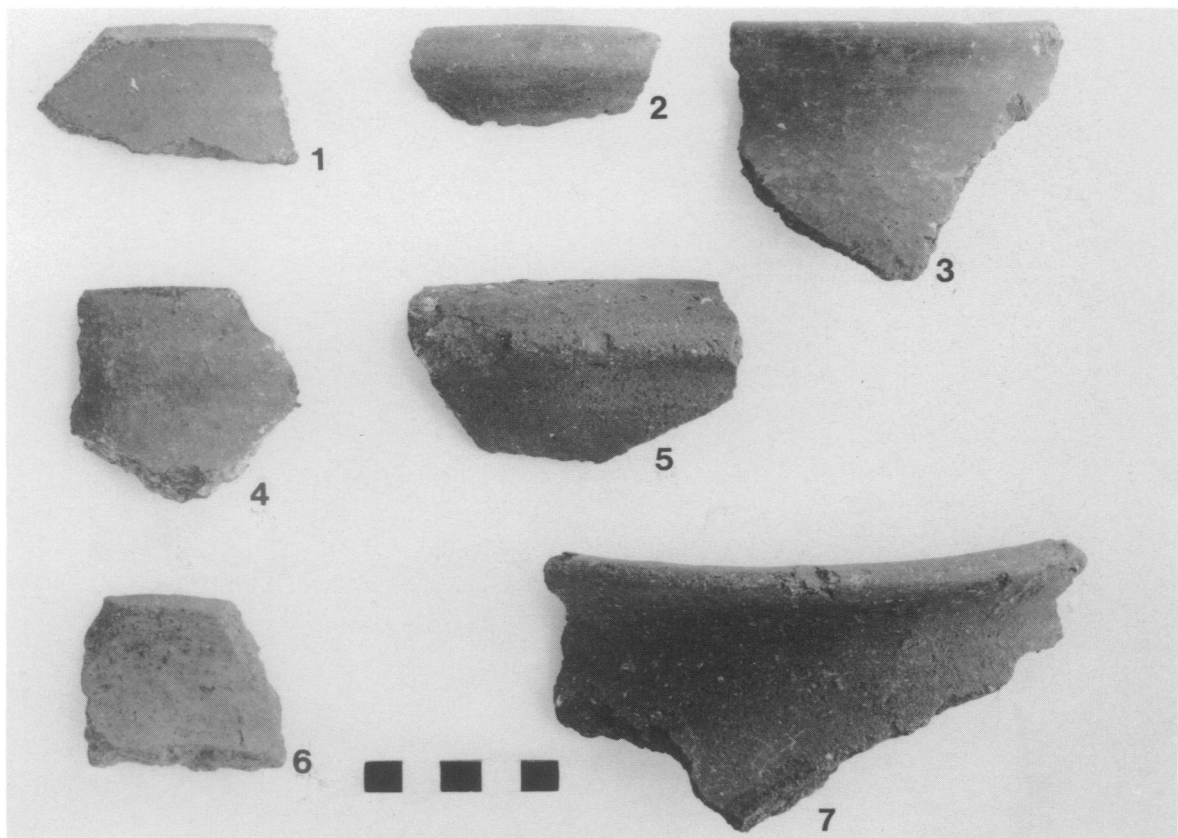


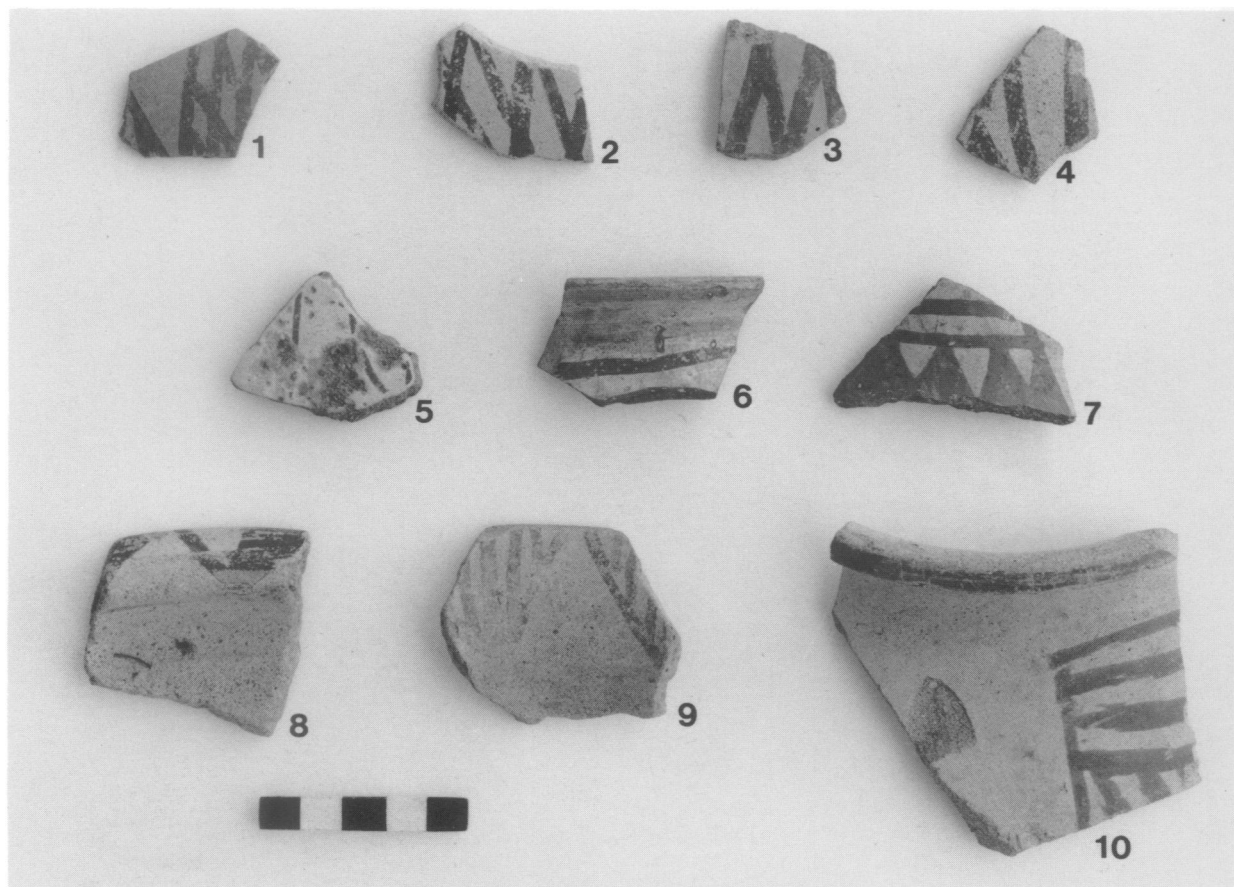
Fig. 9. Wheel-made and hand-made plain ware bowls from Cimin Tepe II (CAB Site 113) collected by C. A. Burney in 1955.



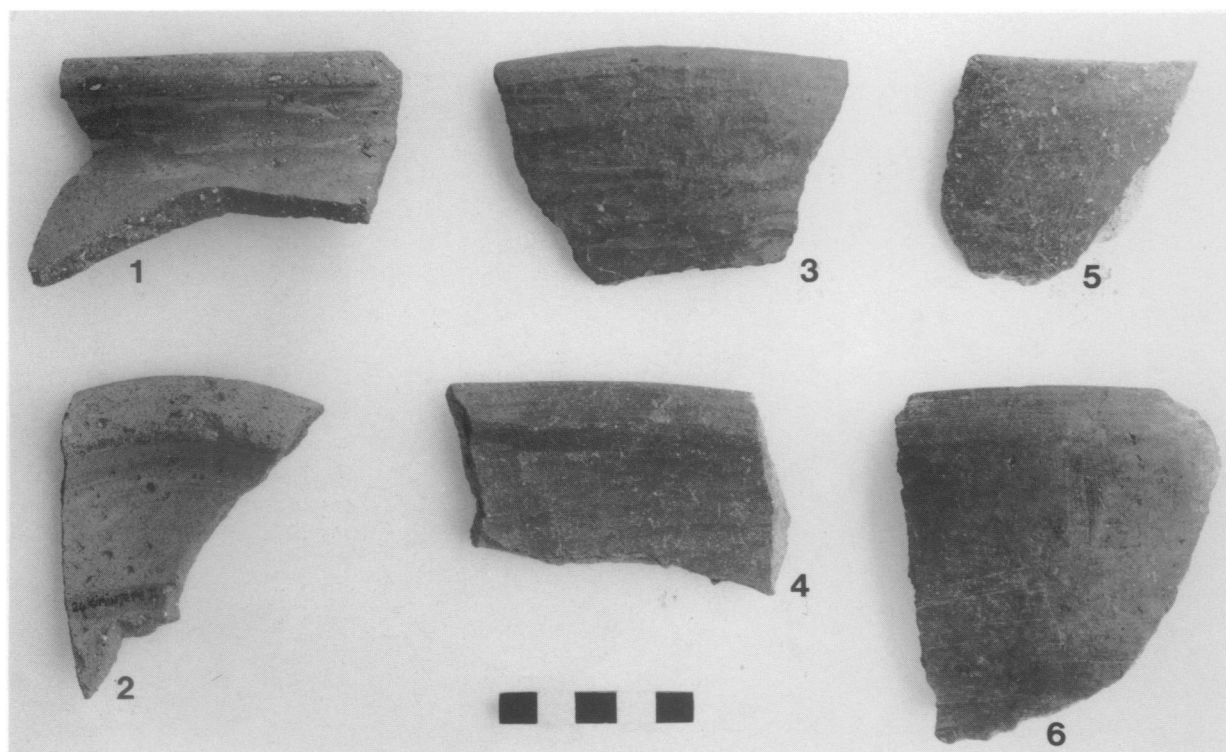
(a) A selection of sherds from Altuntepe (Cimin Tepe I, CAB Site 112) collected by C. A. Burney in 1955.



(b) A selection of sherds from Altuntepe (Cimin Tepe I, CAB Site 112) collected by C. A. Burney in 1955.



(a) A selection of sherds from Cimin Tepe II (CAB Site 113) collected by C. A. Burney in 1955.



(b) A selection of sherds from Cimin Tepe II (CAB Site 113) collected by C. A. Burney in 1955.